

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 545

By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Bobby and Mary Esch on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those successful marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as exemplars for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the union of Bobby and Mary Esch is one such extraordinary marriage, as they will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 30, 2003; and

WHEREAS, Bobby and Mary grew up together in Gleason and met while attending Beech Springs Baptist Church and Gleason High School; and

WHEREAS, after high school, these two fine individuals went their separate ways, as Mary moved to Chicago with her sister and Bobby stayed in Gleason to work with his father; however, on Valentine's Day in 1953, Bobby decided that he would forever be in love with Mary, and travelling to Niles, Missouri, to meet her halfway, he proposed, and she enthusiastically accepted to become his wife; and

WHEREAS, just after Bobby completed Basic Training, Bobby O'Neal Esch and Mary Marie Grissom were joined in holy matrimony on May 30, 1953, and since that fateful day, this

outstanding couple has faced the world as one, basking in the glow of their love for each other during both life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, spending their first few years of married life on military bases in Biloxi, Mississippi, and Dover, Delaware, Mr. and Mrs. Esch moved to Memphis in April of 1957, just before the birth of their first child; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bobby Esch served with acumen and alacrity for 35 years with Plough, Inc., earning the respect of his colleagues for the exemplary quality of his work; he retired in 1989; and

WHEREAS, after 27 years of devoted and assiduous service, Mrs. Mary Esch left her job at Sears to enter into her well-deserved retirement in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Esch have been highly respected citizens of the Memphis community for over 45 years; they are the very epitome of good neighbors, as they always endeavor to treat others as they would like to be treated; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the Esches have been members of Beech Springs Baptist Church, Berclair Baptist Church, Bartlett Baptist Church, and Faith Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, this fine couple's praiseworthy marriage has produced two daughters, each of whom has excelled in her particular field of endeavor; the Esch's children are Karen Renae Esch, who is married to Brian Holton Bowling, and Rita Carol Esch, who is married to James Robert Jeter; and

WHEREAS, the Esches are also the proud grandparents of Stephanie Kay Borden and her husband, Jason Borden, Courtney Brooke Bell and her husband, Darrell Bell, Bradley Allan Bowling, Tamara Denise Jeter, and Rusty Lynn Bowling; they have also been blessed with one precious great-granddaughter, Emily Bell; and

WHEREAS, in addition to spending time with their children and grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Esch enjoy travelling and have visited nearly every state and have even been to Canada and Europe; and

WHEREAS, for 50 years, this blessed union has grown and prospered as an expression of time-honored family values and selfless love; and

WHEREAS, marriages such as the Esch's are truly the rock-solid foundation upon which our society is built and a beacon of sanity and continuity in these turbulent times; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Bobby and Mary Esch on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for much continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.